

FARMERS FOR BLOC; GIVE THEIR PROGRAM

Harding's Wishes Openly
Disregarded in Conven-
tion Resolution.

WIDE REFORMS URGED

Every Phase of Rural Life
Touched On in Their
Demands.

ACREAGE LIMIT SOUGHT

Delegates Ask Agriculture Be
Put on Par With Other
Industries.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—In open disregard for the wishes of the President and Administration leaders the agricultural conference went on record to-day in hearty approval of the activities of the agricultural bloc in Congress. The endorsement came by a resolution which in the same breath commended Mr. Harding for calling the conference. The resolution read: "Resolved, That this conference congratulates the President of the United States for having the courage and the foresight to call, for the first time in American history, a conference representing every phase of American agriculture. We commend not only this action of our President, but most heartily approve his clear cut and constructive address to the conference. We commend the Secretary of Agriculture for making the conference possible and the joint commission of agricultural inquiry for its valuable published report, and we commend and approve the action of those members of the House and Senate comprising the agricultural bloc who, regardless of party, so early saw the emergency and have so consistently supported a constructive program for the improvement of agriculture and the bettering of rural life."

Want Action at Once.
Immediate steps to reestablish the value of farm products on a parity with those of other commodities was asked of Congress and President Harding at the night session. The resolution was contained in a report from the marketing committee and members said its adoption meant that "something must be done by the President and Congress immediately." The resolution follows:

"It is the sense of this committee that the Congress and the President of the United States should take such steps as will immediately reestablish a fair exchange value for all farm products with that of all other commodities."
The conference at the same time rejected a resolution of the National Farmers' Union, offered by J. S. Wannamaker of South Carolina, which would have called for a Government minimum price guaranty on farm products.
Some measure of stabilization of prices was advocated by J. M. Anderson of St. Paul, Minn., who said some such step should be taken until Europe is restored economically. He favored participation of the United States in European readjustments.
It was a day of adopting resolutions, the perfection of a program which will keep the agricultural bloc busy for a considerable time to come. The resolutions touched on everything from the provision of a system of circulating libraries for the rural population to the Government's attitude on the most delicate domestic and international problems.

Program as Outlined.
Recommendations adopted included:
That the Government extend aid to Europe for economic rehabilitation.
Limitation of the acreage of certain crops to balance production and restore the farmer's dollar to a normal purchasing power.
Approval of the program of the American delegation to the armament conference.
Recommendation of the investigations of retail prices by the Departments of Justice and Commerce.
Investigation by Congress of plans to stabilize the dollar.
Equalization of tariff protection.
The gathering and distribution of foreign market and production reports by the Department of Agriculture.
In adopting the report of its committee on foreign competition and demand, the conference went on record as favoring:
Financing of exports through credits authorized by Congress.
Investigation by the Interstate Commerce Commission to determine the advisability of extending preferential export freight rates to agricultural commodities not now affected.
Extension of the provision of the Webb-Pomeroy act, which provides for combination of concerns for export trade.
Tariff protection for agriculture equal to that afforded other industries.
Establishment of a tariff board to administer a permanent flexible tariff law with an anti-dumping provision.
Opposition to a tariff on potash.
Increased support of the International Agricultural Institute at Rome.
Assignment of agricultural attaches to American embassies in foreign countries.

Limit on Production.
With respect to production limitation the committee recommendation reads: "The manufacturer has in the past quickly adjusted his production to price recessions, while the farmer has not. When farm production is so large the product cannot be sold for prices that will maintain reasonable standard of living on the farms, the supply is too large. We recommend that the farmers and the farm organizations consider the problem of world supply and demand and make comprehensive plans for production programs so they may be able to advance their members as to the probable demand for staples, and to propose measures for proper limitation of acreage in particular crops," as pointed out by the President of the United States."

POLITICAL REVOLT FEARED BY CHIEFS OF OLD PARTIES

Continued from First Page.

the fallure of the party in power to provide correctives for business demoralization, agricultural depression, extravagance and other evils.
Perhaps one of the most surprising revelations brought to the surface by the activities of the agricultural group and through protests, warnings and demands showering upon members of Congress was that the wave of discontent was not confined to the farming elements, but was shared by men and women voters engaged in every class of business.

The fundamental complaint was that the party in power appeared to be more concerned over little patronage squabbles in devising fatuous schemes to attract personal support for individual candidates, than over fundamental issues which affect every class of citizen. Some of the clearer thinking leaders found occasion to admonish their associates, who were more interested in patronage and other comparatively unimportant matters of personal interest, that the people of the country expected prompt and intelligent action to relieve existing burdens not only on the agricultural industry but on citizens generally.

These warnings were permitted to go unheeded until the alert promoters of the agricultural movement sensed an opportunity to foment dissatisfaction with the trend of events at Washington, or rather lack of intelligent direction in this respect.

The two parties already had trouble enough without the volunteer contributions from the rural belt, even before the new insurgent movement had established its supremacy over the national legislative mind. Conditions in both organizations were anything but tranquil, although the same causes were largely responsible. The agricultural insurgency merely served to crystallize and expand the waves of criticism and resentment that developed in various parts of the country.

The international conference was conceded to be a good thing by the professional Republican politicians. It served as a sort of windshield against the criticisms through a hard winter. The deliberations of the conference monopolized the attention of the people, or at least diverted it from problems of greater domestic and more intimate importance. But the windshield has served its purpose and has been laid aside.

The leaders of the party now face the full expression of popular resentment.
In the coming elections thirty-two Senators and 435 members of the House are to be voted for or against. The Senate is composed of fifty-nine Republicans, thirty-six Democrats and one independent. There is practically no chance for the Democrats to win control of that branch of the national legislature.

The political division of the House

shows 302 Republicans, 132 Democrats and one independent. The Republican majority of 170 in the House has accomplished little in the way of relief in popular estimation. It has proved unwieldy and unresponsive to the character of leadership displayed. Even the most sanguine Republican partisan does not consequently think that the representation of his party in the next Congress will approximate that in the present session. The fact is, the more reasonable Republican leaders concede the possibility of the lower branch of Congress falling into the hands of the Democrats.

The chief difference between the Republicans and Democrats in Congress has been that the former have lacked efficient leadership and the latter have had too many leaders whose main contributions have been in the line of conversation rather than an intelligent grasp of the needs of the country and the ability to frame legislation calculated to provide for them.

Former President Wilson has taken little part in the management of his party, though he has frequently shown a keen appreciation of passing events. If the Democrats have a definite constructive program in mind they have not revealed it up to date. But there is no question that they have an issue. It is the League of Nations. Mr. Cox, the Democratic Presidential nominee, clearly indicated this fact in a speech at the Jackson Day dinner at Dayton, Ohio, last night.

It is assumed that the declaration of Mr. Cox that his party had not shifted its position on the international situation since the last campaign was made with the full concurrence of Mr. Wilson. That, at least, is the belief of the Democratic leaders in Washington.

These men believe the trend of European events and the actual and indicated results of the armament conference at Washington have helped to revitalize the League of Nations issue, and that it will prove a winning card plus Republican mistakes, in the coming Congressional elections.

They believe the failure of the Republican majority to provide relief from burdensome taxation, an adequate tariff with which to stabilize business conditions, the retention of Newberry in the Senate and the enactment of an unworkable bonus law designed to fool the ex-service men with other "Republican mistakes," will furnish an excellent frame for the League of Nations issue.

One of the most significant features of present conditions is the dissimilarity of issues raised in various parts of the country and which apparently have no relation to Republican or Democratic policies as a whole. The agricultural insurgency is responsible for some of them; prohibition for others, as also the failure of the party in power to reduce taxes, provide a satisfactory tariff law or the delays in improving conditions consequent upon them.

REPUBLICANS ORDER BONUS BILL FRAMED

Will Get Right of Way When
Reported Out by Ways
and Means.

FINANCING NOT SETTLED

Fordney Says Harding Will
Not Oppose if Funds Can
Be Obtained.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—Early action in the House on a soldiers' bonus bill was forecast tonight when Republican members in caucus adopted a resolution instructing the Ways and Means Committee to frame a bonus bill and declaring that once reported the measure should be the continuing order of business until passed. No opposition to the resolution developed, it was said. While ways of raising necessary revenue for a bonus were discussed, it was said, no instructions were given the Ways and Means Committee as to what revenue raising provisions should be placed in the bill. Members generally were of the opinion it would be advisable for the committee first to thresh out this point and leave the Republican membership of the House privileged after the bill is reported to caucus again, particularly on that feature of the measure.

Such sentiment as was expressed, it was said, was in favor of making the cash provisions of the bill less attractive and those providing for insurance and home farm aid a more desirable option. Several members were said to have urged that cash payments be somewhat reduced so that more veterans would be inclined to take advantage of other benefits. This, it was said, would require less initial revenue.

Incidentally several ways of providing necessary revenue were suggested, among them a sales tax, issuance of bonds secured by the foreign debt and use of interest paid in by nations indebted to the United States.

Chairman Fordney of the Ways and Means Committee assured his colleagues his committee would act with dispatch. Hearings, he said, would begin Tuesday, with the prospect they would be brief and that the bill would be reported very soon. Mr. Fordney, it was said, gave no indication as to how revenue might be raised, although it was said he told the caucus that President Harding was not opposed to a bonus provided a way of financing the project could be worked out without disturbing the finances of the country.

The resolution adopted by the caucus was presented by Representative Reeco, Tennessee, a former service man.

COAL THIEVES TAKE STOVE.

PORTLAND, Me., Jan. 26.—Thieves who have been carting away coal from the transfer plant of the Portland Coal Company forced open the door of the office last night and stole the office stove.

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